Patent
Atty. Dkt. No. CARA/0013

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the last two paragraphs of page 13 as follows:

The present invention suction ring can be used with other instruments for corneal surgical procedures requiring the ocular globe to be immobile in relation to the surgical instruments. These surgical instruments may be, for example, microkeratomes, various scalpels or incisors, corneal markers, artificial chambers and corneal dissectors. A specific example of a suitable microkeratome can be found in U.S. Pat. No. 5,980,543 to Carriazo et al., the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. Embodiments of the ring of the present invention are suitable for use with microkeratomes having pendular as well as horizontal cutting paths. The ~~suction~~ ring may be made from stainless steel, titanium, a synthetic plastic, rubber and combinations thereof.

The present invention may further be applied to advantage in the form of a kit for use with a microkeratome having a cutting head assembly. The kit comprises a plurality of rings for securing aspherical ocular globes, and each of the plurality of rings has: (1) an aperture sized to receive and expose a cornea; (2) a fixed dimension interface for interfacing with the cutting head assembly; and (3) an annular vacuum channel that is connectable to a vacuum source. The annular vacuum channel has an aspherical ocular globe-engaging surface comprising an inferior engaging surface and a superior engaging surface. Two or more of the rings of the kit differ in a manner selected from aperture dimension or shape, superior engaging surface dimension or shape, inferior engaging surface dimension or shape, and combinations thereof.

While the foregoing is directed to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, other and further embodiments of the invention may be devised without departing from the basic scope thereof, and the scope thereof is determined by the claims that follow.